

## Shorter Contributions

*Banisteria*, Number 52, pages 50–51  
© 2019 Virginia Natural History Society

## Two Beetles New to Virginia (Coleoptera: Cantharidae, Erotylidae)

Brent W. Steury

U.S. National Park Service  
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park Headquarters  
McLean, Virginia 22101

### ABSTRACT

Malaise traps set along Little Hunting Creek in 2017 and 2018 on lands managed by the National Park Service as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway captured two beetle species (*Cryptophilus obliteratus* and *Tytthonyx erythrocephala*) previously undocumented from Virginia. Specimens are deposited in the collection maintained at the Turkey Run Park Headquarters in McLean, Virginia. These two captures are discussed below.

**Keywords:** Fairfax County, Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, national park, new state record.

### VIRGINIA

*Tytthonyx erythrocephala* (Fabricius) – Fairfax Co.: Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, 20–30 June 2017, B. Steury, C. Davis & C. Acosta (George Washington Memorial Parkway [GWMP], 2); same location, 14–28 June 2018, B. Steury & C. Davis (GWMP, 3). **NEW STATE RECORD.**

There are few published records for this soldier beetle (Cantharidae). Downie & Arnett (1996) report records from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Ulke (1902) adds a record from the District of Columbia. The Maryland Biodiversity Project (2018) which contains 2,226 coleopteran records does not include any documentation for this beetle from Maryland. Pelletier & Hébert (2014) did not include *Tytthonyx* in their survey of northeastern North American cantharids. However, its range is apparently broader than published records indicate. BugGuide (2018) includes images attributed to this distinctive beetle from Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Ramsdale (2002) states

that nothing is known about the ecology of *Tytthonyx*. These four specimens were captured in mature forest dominated by broadleaved hardwoods, especially oaks (*Quercus* sp.), hickory (*Carya* sp.), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.), and some Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana* Mill.). The understory is strongly ericaceous and dominated by blueberry and deerberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) and huckleberry (*Gaylussacia* sp.). A narrow band of shrubby marsh is found along the bank of Little Hunting Creek approximately 20 m from the Malaise trap. The cantharid beetle *Malthinus occipitalis* LeConte was also captured at this site. The capture of *T. erythrocephala* increases the number of cantharid beetles documented from GWMP to 39 species (Steury, 2018b; Steury et al., 2018).

*Cryptophilus obliteratus* Reitter (Fig. 1) – Fairfax Co.: Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, 1 March–11 April 2018, B. Steury & C. Davis (GWMP, 1). **NEW STATE RECORD.**



Fig. 1. *Cryptophilus obliteratus* Reitter, Little Hunting Creek, Fairfax County, Virginia, Malaise trap, 1 March – 11 April 2018. Length 2.5 mm. Collectors, Brent Steury & Colin Davis.

This pleasing fungus beetle (Erotylidae) was introduced from the Palearctic Region (Esser, 2017) sometime before 1924 (Casey, 1924). *Cryptophilus seriatus* Casey, described from the Nearctic Region, is a junior synonym of *C. obliteratus* (Esser, 2017). In North America, this species has been reported on the East Coast from Maine to Pennsylvania and Maryland, west to Iowa (Lawrence & Vaurie, 1983; Esser, 2017). The Little Hunting Creek specimen was captured in deciduous woodland dominated by American beech and oaks, with deep leaf litter and large rotting logs. This record increases the number of erotylid beetles known from the GWMP to 21 species and one subspecies (Steury, 2018a).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation is extended to bug lab volunteers Ann Kelly and Jerry Taylor for finding these beetles in the Malaise trap samples. Steve Roble, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, and two anonymous reviewers provided helpful comments on the draft manuscript.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- BugGuide. 2018. <https://bugguide.net/node/view/264390/bgimage?from=0>. (Accessed December 2018).
- Casey, T. L. 1924. Additions to the known Coleoptera of North America. *Memoires of the Coleoptera* 11: 1–347.
- Downie, N. M., & R. H. Arnett. 1996. *The Beetles of Northeastern North America, Volume I. The Sandhill Crane Press, Gainesville, FL. 880 pp.*
- Esser, J. 2017. On the Nearctic *Cryptophilus* Reitter, 1874 (Coleoptera: Erotylidae). *Linzer biologische Beiträge* 49: 1133–1137.
- Lawrence, J. F., & P. Vaurie. 1983. A catalog of the Coleoptera of America north of Mexico. Family: Languriidae. Handbook number 529-92. United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Washington, DC. 13 pp.
- Maryland Biodiversity Project. 2018. <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/>. (Accessed December 2018).
- Pelletier, G., & C. Hébert. 2014. The Cantharidae of eastern Canada and northeastern United States. *Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification* No. 25. [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/ph\\_25/ph\\_25.html](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/ph_25/ph_25.html). doi: 10.3752/cjai.2014.25. (Accessed December 2018).
- Ramsdale, A. S. 2002. Cantharidae Imhoff 1856. Pp. 202–218 *In* R. H. Arnett, Jr., M. C. Thomas, P. E. Skelley, & J. H. Frank (eds.), *American Beetles, Volume 2, Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea through Curculionoidea*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 861 pp.
- Steury, B. W. 2018a. Annotated checklist of some fungivorous beetles (Coleoptera: Anamorphidae, Biphyllidae, Derodontidae, Endomychidae, Erotylidae, and Tetratomidae) of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. *Banisteria* 50: 21–28.
- Steury, B. W. 2018b. Four longhorned beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) new to Virginia and additional new park records (Coleoptera: Anthicidae, Buprestidae, Cantharidae, Carabidae, Cerambycidae, Chrysomelidae) for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. *Banisteria* 50: 29–31.
- Steury, B. W., W. E. Steiner, Jr., & F. W. Shockley. 2018. The soldier beetles and false soldier beetles (Coleoptera: Cantharidae and Omethidae) of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. *Maryland Entomologist* 7: 11–27.
- Ulke, H. 1902. A list of the beetles of the District of Columbia. *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* Volume XXV. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. 57 pp.